

# NEWPORT WEEKLY INDEPENDENT.

VOLUME II.

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## WON IN A WALK.

Newport Athletic Association Wins  
First Game With Bernstein's  
Drummers on the Lake  
Grounds Friday  
Afternoon.

The Newport Athletic Association met "Bernstein's Drummers," a nine selected for the day, and composed not only of traveling men but home talent as well, on the base ball diamond Friday afternoon and came out victors in a hotly contested struggle. The Newport boys batted out enough runs in the early part of the game to give their opponents a bad case of the blues and then proceeded to cinch the game by holding the drummers down to a few scattered runs, except in the ninth inning, when in a last desperate rally, aided by costly errors upon the part of the home team, they came very near evening up the final score.

The game was free from rowdyism and was a very fair exhibition of amateur ball, calculated to win the Newport boys the moral encouragement and financial support of the town. One great disadvantage is the grounds, as the outfield is not only very rough, but contains several ditches and mud-holes, where the ball is forever lost when once it goes that way. The crowd manifested its approval of every piece of clever work by a discharge of torpedoes and other explosives of the Fourth. Henry Owen won the applause of the rooters frequently by good field work and timely hits, while "Panilla" Morton kept the crowd in a laughing humor by his witty coaching.

Following is the line up:

NEWPORT DRUMMERS.										
Roberts, c	G. Richardson c									
R. Richardson, p	Morton, p									
Parrish, 1b	Adams, 1b									
Owen, 2b	Brown, 2b									
Carter, 3b	Marris, 3b									
McDonald ss	Mahoney, ss									
Hare rf	Johnson, rf									
Dillard, cf	Allen, cf									
Buford lf	Bandy, lf									
Jas. Duffer, Umpire.										

Score by innings.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Newport	4	3	0	0	2	0	3	1	4	13
Drummers	2	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	4	1

## DAY OF PICNICS.

The Fourth of July, as observed at Newport, is hardly a day commemorative of the great event of 1776, when Jefferson and other patriots of colonial days attached their signatures to that immortal Declaration of Independence. The reason cannot be assigned to a lack of patriotism, but rather to the prevalence of the opinion that there is no need for such demonstration.

Independence Day was conspicuous more for its excursions and its picnics rather than for its cannonading and fireworks, though the militia company fired a salute of 47 guns at 5:15 in the morning, 23 with the field piece that has laid idle in the court house yard and 24 with the rifles. The intermittent explosions of the small boy's fire cracker might be heard throughout the day, and in the early evening the flash of the sky rocket and Roman candle contributed to the light of the starry firmament above.

But as a day of picnics, it takes rank along with other seasons of festivity and merrymaking. In such manner was the holiday observed at the Morris field, Bergon Lake, Campbell station, Pickett's Lake, Newark and other points over Jackson and Independence counties.

At the Morris field, north of town Messrs Charles, Ed and Dorsey Wilms gave a picnic and barbecue to relatives and friends, that afforded all their guests a day rich in the pleasures of a picnic outing. The barbecued kid, mutton and pork had been prepared by old time darkies who proved excellent chefs in this art and seasoned to so good a flavor these tender morsels, that the many other prepared delicacies that graced this picnic spread, were rated second.

At Campbell station, there was a large gathering, embracing many from Jacksonport and some from Newport. Beside the usual spread of good things to eat, a dance was enjoyed upon a platform constructed for the occasion. About fourteen members of Company G of the Arkansas State Guard, with a

number of others, went to Newark to spend the day and affirm that they were well treated in our hospitable neighbor city.

The whole of Breckinridge township is reported to have been in attendance at the Pickett Lake picnic, and none fail to speak in glowing terms of their enjoyment of the day.

## CROSSING GATE BROKEN.

The gate constructed by the Iron Mountain at the intersection of that road and the Choctaw track, was run into Friday night by an Iron Mountain engine and almost completely demolished. When constructed, it was supposed to serve as a gate for the Choctaw, except when trains on the latter road were passing, but proved an obstruction as a rule to the Mountain trains.

## SMITHEE'S SUICIDAL SHOT.

Little Rock, July 5.—Col. J. N. Smithee, one of the best known newspaper men of this section, committed suicide some time Friday and his body was found this afternoon.

Col. Smithee is known to have gone to his room yesterday afternoon in the Merchant's Hotel. Nothing more was seen of him. This afternoon the chambermaid went to his room for the purpose of attending to her work and found the door locked. This was reported at the office and aroused the suspicion of the clerk, who at once notified the authorities.

Chief of Police McMahon and a party of officers and others went to the hotel and, forcing their way into the room over the transom, were astounded to find the veteran journalist dead with a pistol grasped in his hand. He had fired the fatal shot into his right temple and had evidently been dead about twenty-four hours. A 32-calibre weapon was used.

## INDEPENDENCE DAY DANCE.

The dining hall of the Hazel hotel presented an animated scene Friday evening when some thirty young people were gathered together to trip the light fantastic. The music was up to the usual standard and the evening was enjoyed by all.

Those in attendance were Misses Neill and Imogene Bandy, Della Bernstein, Janie Stephens, Maude Richardson, Minnie Ross, Mary Rhames, Jennie McCauley, Claire Johnson, Lucy Brandenburg, Edith and Miriam Handford, Cecil Wilson, Roberta and Nannie Morrison, Pearl Martin; Mesdames C. H. Niemeyer, W. B. Egan, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Sells; Messrs. Robt. Laird, Bennett Egan, Charles Holmes, Ernest McDonald, Wm. Parrish, Edwin Carter, Tom Dillard, Sprigg Foushee, Harry Brandenburg, O. D. Hawn, Eugene Hirsch, Conway Hall, Raymond Otey and Cameron Riter.

## STILL IN THE RACE.

Senator James K. Jones, who passed through Little Rock Monday morning en route to his home in Hope, Ark., said to a Gazette reporter, who accompanied him a part of the way to Hope:

"That his candidacy for the senate against Ex-Governor Clarke depends entirely upon his friends when the legislature meets.

"That he voted for the Panama canal route because he believes it the shortest and best in every way.

"That if the president has any intention of appointing him a canal commissioner, the senator has no knowledge of it.

"That he has no interest in the letter Governor Davis wrote to President Roosevelt protesting against the senator's appointment as a canal commissioner."

## WHITECAPPERS JAILED.

Mammoth Springs, July 4.—Sexton's trial has been put off until Monday. The Sheriff has the entire white-cap gang in jail. Feeling is running high against them.

This is the second stage of the peculiar affair in which Pink Gibson met instant death through the explosion of a stick of dynamite in his pocket by a shot from Sexton's rifle.

## CRYSTAL WEDDING.

Fifteenth Wedding Anniversary Of  
Mr. and Mrs. Lancelot Minor Celebrated Saturday Evening at  
Their Home on Third  
Street.

Notwithstanding the season of the year, when a midsummer sun is wont to drive into temporary retreat the deities who preside upon festive occasions in the social world, Newport continues to enjoy and still holds forth promises of events, such as society revels in,—weddings and their anniversaries. They are closely akin in nature, if not in the intervening years, and the receptions which attend them are ever delightful occasions, as well as refreshing memories in older years.

The event of the past week was the reception of Mr. and Mrs. Lancelot Minor, to which a large number of friends had been invited, in celebration of their fifteenth wedding anniversary. The guests upon arriving could not help but note the beauty of the scene, the yard being lighted with Japanese lanterns and the interior of the home so nicely arranged, that under the enchanting influence of sweet strains of music furnished by Criswell's orchestra and the abundant, charming evidences of the true Southern hospitality of host and hostess, assisted by Miss Lou Minor, the oppressive heat of the evening and other mundane embarrassments were forgotten.

The dining room, cooled by a motor fan, was beautiful in green and yellow, the decorations being of asparagus and sunflowers, carrying the guest back to fifteen years ago when these flowers were used to the same pretty effect at the wedding reception. For a center piece, a huge block of ice was mounted upon the table, and from the ice stood forth a handsome bouquet of roses, a thoughtful remembrance from Mr. B. M. Stainback.

The refreshments were both dainty and daintily served, consisting of brick ice cream, in which the color scheme was carried out, assorted cake, bon bons and olives.

Messrs. J. O. Taylor and Alcorn Ferguson took the places of the young misses who are habitually accorded places at the punch bowl and presided with exceptional grace and dignity. Their nook was in the yard but so refreshing was the beverage they served, that it proved a popular resort with the company present.

Mr. and Mrs. Minor were the recipients of many beautiful and costly pieces of cut glass, evidences of the esteem and friendship of their guests and several who were unable to attend. The out-of-town guests were Mrs. M. M. O'Neal, of Augusta, and Miss Nellie Fitzhugh, of Fitzhugh, the latter having been one of the bridesmaids in the Minor-Ferguson wedding. Telegrams, bearing happily framed greetings, were received from Mrs. Sigmund Wolff of St. Louis, and Mr. and Mrs. Ike Goldman, now at Colorado Springs.

The INDEPENDENT offers congratulations to host and hostess upon this happy celebration of their crystal wedding and hopes that with the half-way mark more than passed, their silver anniversary may find them even more prosperous, happy and contented and in that youthful, genial frame of mind, when it will still be a pleasure to entertain friends so delightfully as upon this past occasion.

## HOME TEAM WON AGAIN.

The Newport boys on Saturday afternoon again demonstrated to the aggregation of drummers, that they could put up a far better game of ball than their opponents, by defeating them in a score of 30 to 17.

The Newport boys have a way of winning the game in the first inning, at least in taking a lead that cannot be overcome, which destroys interest in the game and makes the players careless for the remaining innings.

Robert Bandy, a pitcher in the employ of Augusta this season, twirled the ball for the drummers. A ball from his hand does not lack speed and though he was hard to hit, he was just as difficult to catch and his wild

throws made many numerous and costly errors.

Kyler of El Dorado, Davidson and Owen served in the pitcher's box for the home team and had they been well supported, would have kept the score down to a number of one figure.

The crowd present was not a very large one and the game was not one to arouse much enthusiasm or even interest.

## COFFIN CONFIDENT OF CHANGE.

Hon. Charles Coffin of Walnut Ridge while in Little Rock Saturday, gave out the following interview to a Democrat reporter, relative to the improvements to be secured by Hoxie from the Iron Mountain:

"We are preparing to take advantage of any of the boom that may come to us through the establishment of the Iron Mountain division at Hoxie. Of course that goes to Hoxie, but it is all in one community, Hoxie being only a mile and a half from Walnut Ridge. There was not sufficient land at our place for the purpose, so General Superintendent Cotter went to Hoxie, where Mrs. Boas gave the road all the land needed, ninety-one acres, for the roundhouses, repair shops, office buildings and yards. It is a strip 350 feet wide by two miles long. Work is to commence at once, and Mr. Cotter thinks it will be completed within ninety days. About \$100,000 is to be expended there. Grading is now being done at Piedmont, and the force will come from there to Hoxie, and give the city an increase of at least 1,000 people in ten days. The new division will be just below the crossing of the Frisco and the Iron Mountain."

## NEW BUSINESS FIRM.

Joseph Berger, of Jonesboro spent Sunday and Monday in Newport, looking over the city with a view to putting in a branch mercantile establishment. The INDEPENDENT acknowledges a pleasant call from Mr. Berger, who expressed himself as greatly pleased with our little city, and he also has confidence in its future growth.

Mr. Berger will open up an exclusive gentlemen's furnishing store and proposes to carry a high grade of stock, and for this purpose has rented the store building of N. B. Wishon adjoining the Bank of Newport. A modern front will be constructed and other improvements made to make it a handsome store building.

The store will probably be opened in August if the repairs can be completed by that time. Mr. Berger is a son of Marcus Berger, a substantial and respected citizen of Jonesboro, who has contributed much to that city's upbuilding, as the head of its largest mercantile establishment.

## WASHINGTON JAIL DELIVERY.

A jail delivery occurred at Washington, Hempstead county Saturday. The prisoners ran over Jailer A. D. Monroe while he was giving them their breakfast and Monroe was badly beaten up, but managed to one of them until he was assisted by another prisoner. Tom Simms, D. Noland and three others escaped. Monroe shot Noland as he ran, hitting him in the back and inflicting a fatal wound. He also shot at Simms but missed him. The town was aroused and all the escaped prisoners recaptured.

Simms and Noland were condemned to die for murder, and their cases were affirmed by the supreme court last Saturday. Noland is dying. Monroe is badly bruised up.

## EIGHT CONVICTS ESCAPE.

Eight convicts made a successful break for liberty Sunday night at Preston, on the Little Rock and Fort Smith railroad. They were part of the gang at work on the railroad improvements and were confined at night in a box car. They cut their way out of the car and made good their escape. The penitentiary authorities will pay the usual reward for the return of the escaped convicts, one of whom was Sam Swan, a white man, who was sent up from this county for eleven years. He was 30 years of age, weighed 130 pounds and was 5 feet, 7 inches in height.

## DROWNED IN VILLAGE.

Thirteen Year Old Son Of Thomas  
Sconyers Drowned Sunday After-  
noon In Village Creek Near  
Murphy Bridge.

Johnnie Sconyers, aged 13 years, the son of T. J. Sconyers, a well known and respected planter, living east of this city, lost his life Sunday afternoon by drowning in Village Creek, one mile below the Murphy bridge, at what is known as the Russian ford.

The boy in company with two or three other young fellows about his age, had gone bathing in Village and young Sconyers was crossing the creek on a log when he slipped and fell into a hole of water about 8 feet deep. Not knowing how to swim and his companions being too young to rescue him, he was drowned at once.

About three quarters of an hour later his body was recovered by a diver and was buried Monday.

## MADE A BAD MISTAKE.

If there is anybody's yard which should be free of trespassers and sneak thieves, one would think it should be that of Guy Smith's, for he has a very zealous and watchful guardian of his rear premises in a large St. Bernard dog.

Dee Looura, whose appearance would indicate that he has Mexican blood coursing through his veins, not being acquainted with Newport nor the homes which have watch dogs, ventured into Guy Smith's yard about ten o'clock Monday night, for some unknown reason, probably theft, though he claims to have been after a drink of water.

The big St. Bernard however espied him and he the dog, for he tried to run and had reached the top of the fence when the canine pulled him from his chance of escape and would have soon succeeded in eating him up had not the owner come to his assistance.

As it was, his pants were gone from the knee down and the flesh torn in many places. He told Mr. Smith however that he was not badly hurt and has not been since. He is a strange negro and worked about a week as a porter for W. W. Dutton.

## STATE NEWS NOTES.

Charles Jacobson, the governor's private secretary, has announced that the county boards of election commissioners would be appointed toward the latter part of this month after the governor returns to Little Rock.

At DuVall's Bluff, the button factory manager has recently added a new large steam boiler and engine and expects soon to double the capacity of the plant. This city has recently had four blocks of street paved with the mussel shells.

The heavy wind after the recent rain did a great amount of damage to the corn crop throughout northwest Arkansas. The wind in some places blew a perfect hurricane and corn fields were laid flat. Most of this corn is too heavy to recover, and it is thought by a great many that the crop will be cut short nearly one-half. Many large trees in the path of the storm were uprooted.

Gov. Jeff Davis has received a letter from the secretary of the International Mining Congress, which will meet at Butte, Montana, in September stating that Arkansas is entitled to nineteen more delegates. Gov. Davis recently appointed ten delegates and sent their names to the secretary. He will probably appoint the other delegates during this week. The railroads have made a rate of one fare, plus \$2, for this occasion for the round trip.

## TIES FOR HOXIE TRACK.

Conductor Lawson brought down flat cars from off the branch Saturday morning which will be taken to Hoxie below here for the hauling of his marriage between his wife and Hoxie, where much new traffic is to be laid.